

HOUSE BILL 1121

By Littleton

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37,
relative to the department of children's services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department shall create a pilot program for juvenile offenders committed
to the custody of the department and housed at the John S. Wilder youth development
center.

(b) The pilot program must create a group home environment for juveniles and
utilize a step-down approach to provide services and support to juveniles and assist in a
juvenile's transition out of the custody of the department and reunification with family
members. The pilot program may be modeled after the Tennessee Children's Home
programs.

(c) The department may utilize a portion of The John S. Wilder youth
development center property for this pilot program.

(d) The pilot program must begin no later than January 1, 2024, and continue
until June 30, 2026. The department shall evaluate the pilot program to determine
whether the pilot program should be continued or replicated. The department shall
report its findings and conclusions to the judiciary committee of the senate and the civil
justice committee of the house of representatives by no later than February 15, 2026.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.